



# Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

## Summer 2005

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

**Welcome to Recycling Lines**, a look at recycling news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Had a successful collection event? Have a recycling problem? Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at [gscoe@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:gscoe@deq.virginia.gov).

### Recycling Markets Development Council

The RMDC met on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Hampton Roads Public Service office in Chesapeake. The meeting continued the RMDC's review of the recycling rate reporting program, and the members received comments from the localities on issues they face in gathering data and quantifying recycling in their jurisdictions. The RMDC's recycling rate subcommittee provided draft language for possible modification of the existing legislation to allow for variable or tiered recycling goals for localities, dependent on a number of factors which might affect their recycling program success.

The RMDC is planning its next meeting for September 21, 2005, in the South Boston area. Information about the RMDC's schedule can be found on the Commonwealth Calendar.

### Aluminum Can Recycling Challenge

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is challenging cities nationwide to recycle aluminum cans through its annual Cans for Cash City Recycling Challenge. The contest will give two \$5,000 awards in four divisions based upon a city's population. Running from September 1 through September 16, 2005, the program will award the prizes for the city that collects the most aluminum beverage cans for recycling, and for the city with the most innovative ideas promoting aluminum beverage can recycling in their community. In 2004, more than 50 cities participated in the challenge, resulting in the collection and recycling of over 60 million aluminum cans.

For information and to sign up for the challenge, visit this web site: <http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/mwma/novelis/>

#### Web Links of interest:

- [www.aluminum.org/acc/aboutcurbsidepartnership.pdf](http://www.aluminum.org/acc/aboutcurbsidepartnership.pdf)
- [www.re3.org](http://www.re3.org)

### Did You Know?

U.S. Senator James Jeffords (I-VT) proposed tax incentives that would encourage businesses to recycle and to allow state and local governments to issue tax-exempt bonds to finance construction of recycling facilities. This proposal (Recycling Investment Saves Energy Act, or RISE) was supported by a number of environmental and industry groups (NRC, SWANA, Sierra Club, National League of Cities), and was considered and passed by the Senate Finance Committee in June. Information on the bill can be found at the following web sites:

Text: <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/advocacy/RISEtext6-14-05.pdf>

Fact Sheet: <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/advocacy/RISEfactsheet6-14-05.pdf>

### Office Recycling Guidelines

If you're looking for help in developing or providing guidelines to local businesses on how to set up recycling programs, you might want to check out the information provided by Busch Systems in its July-August newsletter. Their newsletter website is:

<http://www.buschsystems.com/newsletters/jul-aug05newsletter.html>.

### Cell Phone Recycling

- RMS Communications (Florida) has created a website, [www.recycleforus.com](http://www.recycleforus.com), that allows individuals or state and local governments send in collected cell phones in exchange for cash. All program materials and shipping costs are free to the collecting organizations.
- Ripmobile, a program by the cell phone recycling company CollectiveGood, pays cash or provides merchandise options for old cell phones. Visit their website at [www.ripmobile.com](http://www.ripmobile.com).
- DEQ will be completing its study on cell phone recycling in the Commonwealth soon. Thanks to all those localities that responded to the short survey on how cell phone recycling questions were handled in your community.

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